

Choice Model Overview

Model	Description	Equipment	Space	Advantages	Disadvantages
Supermarket	Food is set up by food groups inside the pantry. Neighbors choose their food as they walk through the pantry. Workers may help guide guests through their choices or check them out when they have finished shopping.	<p>Necessary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shelving <p>Optional:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Refrigerators and freezers with clear glass doors to view products - Grocery carts - Check-out table 	A space large enough to display food on shelves. There needs to be enough room for guests to walk through safely.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pantry workers have more one-on-one time with guests, enriching their volunteer experience. This also allows neighbors to ask workers specific questions. - Many neighbors can be served at one time. - Considered to be the most neighbor friendly, as it gives patrons a typical shopping experience. 	May need additional shelving, tables, or equipment.
Table	Food is set out on tables by food groups. Neighbors walk by each table to choose and pack their food.	<p>Necessary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tables <p>Optional:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dollies/Carts to move food - Grocery carts 	An indoor or outdoor space large enough to set up tables with room to walk in between the tables.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Many guests can be served at one time. Volunteers can help guide neighbors. - Guests can handle food like they would in a grocery store. - Considered to be the most neighbor friendly, as it gives patrons a typical shopping experience. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Workers need to set up and break down tables. - Lifting food onto tables may be difficult for some workers.
Inventory List	A list of food in stock is posted or given to guests. This type can be a paper list or an online list. Guests choose their food from the list. Workers then assemble the neighbors' food bags.	<p>Necessary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Paper or board to list food in stock - Excel to create/manage list or online shopping / inventory program <p>Optional:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clipboards - Copier/Printer 	- Will work in any space. Needs only enough space to store food and have intake area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Very small space needed to offer choice. - Guests can choose food for themselves without leaving their seat in the intake area. - Online ordering & scheduled pickups can save time. - Can work for a drive through distribution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hard for neighbors with low reading level or English as a 2nd language. - Need to update food list as inventory changes. - Neighbors are unable to read labels.



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Advantages for all types of choice

- Guests can tailor their selections based on their preferences.
- Neighbors can consider religious, cultural, and dietary needs which increases feelings of dignity and respect.
- This model reduces waste because guests are only taking what they need.
- Future ordering becomes easier since you will see what is being chosen more often and stock up on those items.
- There is potential for relationship building with the increased interaction between staff and guests.
- Pantry does not need to be a dedicated space; it can share space with others.

Disadvantages for all types of choice

- Starting up requires planning since you are setting up the foods by food groups.